

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 101200Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 925

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 0098

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, US, SU

SUBJECT: FONMIN COMMENTS RE ELF RELEASE KAGNEW 2

REF: KHARTOUM 0096

1. AFTER DISCUSSION REPORTED REFTEL FONMIN AHMED PRODUCED LETTER IN ARABIC TO PRESIDENT NIMEIRI, DATED JAN 7, FROM "EXECUTIVE HEAD, FOREIGN RELATIONS OF ELF", WHICH HAD CONVEYED INFO ON RELEASE OF KAGNEW 2. AHMED SAID WORDING PARTOOK MORE OF CHARACTER OF PLEA TO USG THAN EXERCISE IN BLACKMAIL TO WHICH HE KNEW USG OPPOSED. HE THEN TRANSLATED RELEVANT PORTION LETTER WHICH QUOTED PARA 2 BELOW.

2. QUOTE (WE ARE) VERY KEEN NOT TO INTERFERE OR CONTEND OR CONTEND WITH A POWER WE CANNOT STAND UP TO. IF WE NEVERTHELESS DO SO SOMETIMES, IT IS IN SPITE OF OURSELVES. AS EVIDENCE OF WHAT WE ARE SAYING IT IS THE FACT THAT, IN RESPONSE TO YOUR EXCELLENCY'S WISH THAT WE RELEASE MR. BOWIDOWICZ AND MR. STRICLAND, WE HAVE DECIDED TO RELEASE THEM. HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE YOUR EXCELLENCY TO CONVEY TO USG THAT WE ARE
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CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD OUR PEOPLE WHOSE PROPERTY

AND VILLAGES ARE BEING DESTROYED AND BURNED BY AMERICAN ARMS. IN VIEW OF THE STEP WE HAVE TAKEN FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS AND BECAUSE OF OUR ESTEEM FOR YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE HOPE THAT USG WILL EXTEND SOME FOOD AID URGENTLY TO OUR CITIZENS WHO HAVE BEEN RENDERED HUNGRY AND HOMELESS BY USG SUPPORT OF ETHIOPIA. THIS FOOD AID MAY BE DELIVERED TO YOU, SIR, BECAUSE OF YOUR WELCOME LIAISON (ROLE) BETWEEN OURSELVES AND USG. END QUOTE.

3. FONMIN COMMENTED THAT HE KNEW WE WOULD FACE PROBLEMS IN RESPONDING TO ABOVE PLEA BUT HE HOPED SOMETHING COULD BE WORKED OUT, IF ONLY THROUGH PRIVATE CHARITY. I ASSURED HIM THIS POSSIBILITY ALREADY CALLED TO DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION BUT COULD NOT PREDICT POSITIVE RESPONSE. THIS CONNECTION, I REMAINED FONMIN OF DEPT SPOKEMAN'S SPECIFIC REFERENCE JAN 9 TO OUR HOPE THAT RELEASE KAGNEW 2 WOULD ENHANCE CHANCES FREEING OTHER THREE.

4. FONMIN STRESSED AGAIN THAT GOS ROLE IN RELEASE ILLUSTRATES THAT SUDAN ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH USG. GOS DOES NOT REGARD SUCH ISSUES AS ANGOLA, ABOUT WHICH HE SAID SUDANESE ARE IGNORANT, AS EQUALLY SIGNIFICANT. NOTING THAT THAT MIGHT BE ALL VERY WELL FOR SUDAN, I REPLIED THAT USG, AS WORLD POWER, HAD TO HAVE A DIFFERENT PERCEPTION OF SUCH ISSUES. WE WOULD THUS HAVE TO CONTINUE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OTHER COUNTRIES' ATTITUDES ON WORLD ISSUES OF INTEREST TO US, EVEN IF NOT TO THEM.

BREWER

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